

6. (Amended) A substrate of improved electrical conductivity wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of Group IVA, Group VA and Group VIA metals, aluminum, manganese, nickel, copper and stainless steel and said substrate having a native oxide layer on a surface thereof, and wherein said substrate surface has deposited thereon by low temperature arc vapor deposition metal selected from the group consisting of Group IA and Group VIIIA metals for increasing the electrical conductivity of said native oxide layer.

Remarks

The specification has been amended on page 6 to correct the typographical error noted in paragraph 1 of the Office Action.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102 based on Evans is respectfully requested for the following reasons. The Evans disclosure is summarized on page 2 of the instant application. The substrate of applicants' invention advantageously does not require the heat treatment disclosed by Evans to incorporate ions into the oxide layer to increase the electrical conductivity thereof. That is because the substrate of applicants' invention has the metal deposited on the substrate surface by low temperature arc vapor deposition. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to point out this important distinction over the substrate disclosed by Evans.

In view of the foregoing, claims 6 and 7 as amended are believed to patentably distinguish over Evans within the meaning of 35 USC 102 and 35 USC 103.

A new claim page 10 is enclosed to be substituted for claim pages 10 and 11 as originally filed.